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Land Manager Receives Sovereign Lands Award

Salt Lake City—The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands has awarded the 2007 Director's Sovereign Lands Award to Karl Kappe in recognition of his outstanding work administering Utah's sovereign lands. Division Director, Dick Buehler presented the award yesterday at the division's annual staff awards meeting.

"Karl was the driving force behind many successful division initiatives," Buehler said. "In fact, many of our current land-use policies were formed under his direction."

During Karl's 30-year career in state land management, he played a key role in historic projects such as the planning and development of the West Desert Pumping Project and the Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan. Throughout his career, Karl developed rules, policy and procedure that continue to guide the management of Utah's 1.5 million acres of sovereign land.

The Director's Sovereign Lands Award was established in 2005 to recognize the efforts of those responsible for directing and promoting sensible use for Utah's sovereign lands. Sovereign lands consist of the beds and banks of the state's navigable waters; they are administered under the public trust doctrine. Karl Kappe retired in 2005 and lives in Salt Lake City.

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